

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Nevada County Transportation Commission

FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report for the February 18, 2004 NCTC Meeting

DATE: February 13, 2004

1. STATUS REPORT ON IDAHO-MARYLAND ROAD/EAST MAIN STREET INTERSECTION PROJECT

As a follow up to an article that appeared in *The Union* newspaper on January 28, 2004 (attached), I made a presentation to the Grass Valley City Council regarding the planning studies that are being done regarding improvement of the Idaho-Maryland Road/East Main Street intersection and the potential impacts from additional traffic flowing from the intersection onto the Golden Center Freeway. I have attached the memorandum that was sent to the City Council and I will repeat the PowerPoint presentation given to them at the NCTC meeting.

We have scheduled a meeting for February 18th to discuss the concept of diverting traffic from the Idaho-Maryland Road on-ramp to the frontage road system with Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Lonergan, and her staff.

2. UC BERKELEY INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORTATION STUDIES SAFETY EVALUATION TEAM

The UC Berkeley team was here on January 29th and 30th to evaluate four intersections in western Nevada County. The team members were Nazir Lalani, P.E., and Toby Gloekler, P.E.

Nazir Lalani is the Deputy Director of Advanced Planning in the Transportation Department in the Ventura County Public Works Agency. Mr. Lalani has won many awards in traffic engineering and has held positions in cities and counties. He is very active in the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and was past International President of ITE.

Toby Gloekler is a Principal Engineer with Collision Reconstruction Engineers Incorporated. Mr. Gloekler is an expert in collision analysis with experience in both engineering and law enforcement. He has given talks throughout California on a wide variety of traffic safety related topics, including auto-pedestrian accident investigation and reconstruction, forensic photography, speed determination from collision damage, and computer-assisted traffic accident reconstruction.

Mr. Lalani and Mr. Gloekler are preparing a report of their findings regarding the LaBarr Meadows Road/SR 49 intersection, the Brunswick Road/SR 174 intersection, the Brunswick Road/Idaho-Maryland Road intersection, and the South Auburn Street/Neal Street/Colfax Avenue intersection. Their report will include comments on the proposed diversion of traffic from the Idaho-Maryland on-ramp to the frontage road system. They expect to have their report completed within six weeks after their visit. However, they plan to send out their findings on the La Barr Meadows Road/SR 49 intersection and the South Auburn Street/Neal Street/Colfax Avenue intersection ahead of the main report and as soon as they are completed.

3. DESIGNATION OF WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY AS A NON-ATTAINMENT AREA UNDER US EPA 8-HOUR OZONE STANDARDS

As a follow up to sending out NCTC's letter opposing EPA's proposal to include Nevada County in the Sacramento nonattainment area, I made phone contact with staff in the offices of Governor Schwarzenegger, State Senator Aanestad, US Senator Boxer, US Senator Feinstein, and Congressman Doolittle.

Mike Woodman attended a statewide meeting of the California Transportation Conformity Working Group on January 29th. Comments made from US EPA Region IX staff at that meeting gave us the impression that EPA was not giving serious consideration to comments opposing the inclusion of five mountain counties into the adjacent metropolitan nonattainment areas. In response to the comments at the Working Group meeting and in concert with Supervisor Sutherland notifying us of her willingness to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators and/or EPA officials on this issue, we made calls to Washington D.C.

In response to my calls to EPA, I received a call from Anna Duncan, Director of US EPA Washington Operations Unit. Ms. Duncan put me in contact with Sharon Reinders in the EPA's Triangle Research Park, North Carolina office. Ms. Reinders is working on an "Ozone Designations Policy", and as a result of our conversation, Mr. John Kelly of the EPA Region IX office called to inform me that EPA would coordinate with Northern Sierra Air Quality Management Air Pollution Control Officer, Gretchen Bennitt, to set up a meeting with transportation and air quality staff from Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Nevada, and Tuolumne Counties, and staff from the California Air Resources Board and Caltrans.

Ms. Bennitt is also working with the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) to set up a meeting where EPA and CARB can present information to County Supervisors. That meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 10th in Sacramento.

attachments